

**Remarks Given by
Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman
December 20, 2006, Crane Naval Base
Military Base Planning Council Meeting**

It's great to be in my home region—and back on base again.

Thanks to each of you for attending. I know it's a busy time with the holidays just around the corner. But it's important to meet before the end of 2006.

Special thanks to Representative Koch and Representative Welch. Our congressional members have been the driving force behind legislation that created this Military Base Planning Council.

As always, I want to thank Dave Reece and Mike Gentile of Crane Technologies, Inc. Their expertise was critical to our efforts to save Crane last year during the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure).

I also want to welcome several members of "Growing Crane." They are all steadfast supporters of our efforts to keep this military base thriving. And we also have several local economic development officials from the region who have agreed to serve on a new committee of this Council. Your support of Crane and your efforts to build community support for the base are major reasons that Crane was spared during BRAC, so thank you once again.

I want to thank the NEW members of this Council for joining us today. Due to legislation this past session, the Council's membership was expanded. We'll hear more about the expansion from Rep. Koch shortly.

This Council was initially conceived as part of the strategy to protect Crane during BRAC. The Military Base Protection Act, which was a critical piece of our lobbying ammunition, was passed to prevent encroachment of the Crane mission, to give priority permit status to Crane at IDEM, and to address any concerns from the surrounding communities.

To continue to survive, this base must evolve beyond its military expertise. The Council will foster those efforts through collaboration with the Indiana National Guard, Indiana's Department of Homeland Security, the state

Office of Energy and Defense Development, military contractors, and our colleges and universities.

Those in this room represent a tremendous partnership between local, state and federal leaders. Together we can continue to build relationships around the state to strengthen and grow Crane.

Office of Energy and Defense Development

Some of you may know that last year we announced the creation of the new Indiana Office of Energy and Defense Development (OED).

We are elevating our energy and defense development initiatives. I see great potential in both fields.

The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process reinforced my longstanding belief on how important our energy and military infrastructure is to our state. We continue to see links between our energy and our military initiatives. Combining our efforts into one action-oriented office should create huge economic development opportunities for many Hoosier communities.

OED has been very active in positioning Indiana with DOD and private industry to develop a strategic Clean Fuels capability for the military. This includes coal-to-liquids plants that would manufacture petroleum-substitute transportation fuels. The DOD and private industry have a strong interest in locating these plants at or near Crane.

A few weeks ago, John Clark, Director, Jason Lovell and I lead nearly 50 business, education and government leaders from around the state and out of state, to Crane to show off its key assets, and promote the facility as a “diamond” in Southern Indiana.

The businesses that took part ranged from large multinational corporations, to small Hoosier business owners who are interested in doing business with Crane and DOD. Many new business relationships were forged between not only the participants and Crane, but also many of the companies that traveled with us have already begun building partnerships among themselves.

OED has been guiding the Indiana Defense and Homeland Security Working Group, an organization that pulls all of Indiana's defense assets together in an effort to move them forward, and is developing an overall plan of action for those assets, including Crane. We've had the recent launch of several studies, all of which you will hear more about later in this meeting.